

TITLE OF REPORT: **Liaison with Gateshead Youth Assembly**

REPORT OF: **Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning**

Summary

The Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to more pro-active links with Gateshead Youth Assembly. This report outlines activity undertaken following the 2017 GYA Elections and priorities set by Youth Assembly for 2018.

Introduction

1. Andrew Adams was appointed Chair and Josh Smith the Vice Chair following the Elections held in November 2017.

Currently Schools and Gateshead College are represented within GYA and the membership intend to promote awareness of GYA across all schools and hope to speak to school councils and head-teachers to promote the benefits being involved can have for young people.

2. GYA and Peace of Mind worked jointly and held a series of drop-in sessions for Refugee and Asylum seeking young people in the run up to Christmas. The program developed events and activities on issues that affect young people. GYA groups applied to "The Key" and were awarded a small grant to hold a "Community Christmas Party" that attracted over 120 Children and their families. This group of young people, now called Peace of GYA have delivered monthly sessions with young people and alongside this enabled English language lessons for parents.
3. GYA members continue to join forces with members from One Voice.
4. GYA continues to be called upon by Gateshead Strategic Partnership and Public Health to explore how young people can further support issues on Community Safety and Improving and promoting Good Health.
5. GYA work closely with Northumbria Police Central Engagement Team around independent scrutiny of Stop and Search initiatives, Organised Crime and Radicalisation. They are also part of a group who are currently developing a Youth Independent Advisory Group for Northumbria Force Area.

6. Josh Smith, Vice-Chair of GYA sits on the board of Governors for Gateshead Hospital Foundation Trust and this involvement helps shape and influence developments at the QE's Children Unit.
7. GYA have identified Emotional Wellbeing (Mental Health and Bullying), public transport, the environment and Tobacco as Priorities for 2018. This is alongside their long running priorities of self-esteem, poverty and inclusion. A copy of the GYA Plans and Priorities Document accompanies this report.
8. Members of Gateshead Youth Assembly meet every week either at Gateshead Youth Council or within the Council Chambers and plan to hold three Convivial Suppers. Members of OSC are invited to attend a Convivial Supper on May 29th 2018, to be held at Gladstone Terrace.
9. Members will deliver training to GYA on a monthly basis including Youth Work Core Skills, Confidence Building, Committee Skills and Community Volunteering and Activism.

Proposal

10. Members of the new Assembly attend future meetings and continue to discuss their activity in 2018 and confirm that their activities support the wider Gateshead agenda.

Recommendations

11. The Committee is requested to note the information presented in the report.
12. The Committee is asked to note the invite to the Convivial Supper on Tuesday 29th May 2018, which will provide an opportunity for Councillors to meet with and hear a presentation from representatives of the Youth Assembly.

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